

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23. (canceled)

Claim 24. (currently amended) A method for processing used and manufacturing scrap asphalt shingle material having an aggregate layer, the method comprising the steps of:

- (A) establishing a target asphalt-aggregate ratio;
- (B) shredding the asphalt shingle material to a first maximum size;
- (C) separating the shredded material into (i) fine material having an asphalt-aggregate composition comprising both asphalt pieces and aggregate and (ii) coarse material; and
- (D) controlling the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material to obtain said target asphalt-aggregate ratio, wherein the target asphalt-aggregate ratio is established independently of said controlling of the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which said controlling step includes the steps of:

- (E) checking the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material; and
- (F) adjusting the ratio of fine material to coarse material resulting from said separating step towards obtaining said target asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

- (E) providing a separating station for accomplishing said separating step, said separation station having an adjustable asphalt-aggregate separation rate; and
- (F) adjusting said separation rate towards obtaining said target asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 26 in which said separating station includes a screen element positioned at an angle from horizontal, and said adjusting step includes one of:

- (i) adjusting the angle of the screen element,
- (ii) providing the screen element with variable-sized openings through which the asphalt-aggregate composition falls, and adjusting the size of said openings, and

(iii) providing the screen element with first and second interchangeable screens having different size openings, and selecting one of said first and second screens for use in the screen element during said separating step.

Claim 28. (canceled)

Claim 29. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which said controlling step includes the steps of:

(E) checking the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material; and

(F) adjusting the first maximum size of shredded material resulting from said shredding step towards obtaining said target asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio of the fine material is approximately 30% to 70% by volume.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio of the fine material is approximately 50-50 by weight.

Claim 32. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which said separating step includes separating the shredded material into fine material having a maximum size of between one-half (1/2) inch to one and one-half (1 1/2) inches.

Claim 33. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which the first maximum size of the shredded material is between approximately one (1) inch to four (4) inches.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 33 in which said first maximum size is between approximately two (2) inches to three (3) inches.

Claims 35-44. (canceled)

Claim 45. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio is established independently of the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the asphalt shingle material.

Claims 46-47. (canceled)

Claim 48. (new) A method for processing used and manufacturing scrap asphalt shingle material having an aggregate layer, the method comprising the steps of:

- (A) establishing a target asphalt-aggregate ratio;
- (B) shredding the asphalt shingle material to a first maximum size;
- (C) separating the shredded material into (i) fine material having an asphalt-aggregate composition comprising both asphalt pieces and aggregate and (ii) coarse material; and
- (D) controlling the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material to obtain said target asphalt-aggregate ratio, wherein said controlling includes (i) checking the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material, and (ii) adjusting the first maximum size of shredded material resulting from said shredding step towards obtaining said target asphalt-aggregate ratio in the fine material.

Claim 49. (new) The method as defined in claim 48 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio of the fine material is approximately 30% to 70% by volume.

Claim 50. (new) The method as defined in claim 48 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio of the fine material is approximately 50-50 by weight.

Claim 51. (new) The method as defined in claim 48 in which said separating step includes separating the shredded material into fine material having a maximum size of between one-half (1/2) inch to one and one-half (1 1/2) inches.

Claim 52. (new) The method as defined in claim 48 in which the first maximum size of the shredded material is between approximately one (1) inch to four (4) inches.

Claim 53. (new) The method as defined in claim 52 in which said first maximum size is between approximately two (2) inches to three (3) inches.

Claim 54. (new) The method as defined in claim 48 in which the target asphalt-aggregate ratio is established independently of the asphalt-aggregate ratio in the asphalt shingle material.